

## Message Text

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16

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-14 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SCCT-02 SY-04 USSS-00

AID-20 FBIE-00 SCA-01 OMB-01 A-01 NIC-01 OPR-02 DRC-01

/128 W

----- 064549

O 300300Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1592

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 SANTO DOMINGO 3990

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: HUTCHISON KIDNAP: LOCAL RADIO COVERAGE

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 3988

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A CONTINUATION OF THE SUMMARY OF LOCAL RADIO COVERAGE OF THE SITUATION AT THE VENEZUELAN CONSULATE, COVERING THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 29 UP TO 7:00 P.M.

2. RADIO CRISTAL HAD AN INTERVIEW WITH MONSIGNOR POLANCO BRITO IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DELIVERY OF SANDWICHES AND SOFT DRINKS TO THE HOSTAGES AND THE KIDNAPPERS. THE MONSIGNOR SAID THAT HE HAD TALKED WITH MENDEZ VARGAS AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN A REQUEST FOR MEDICAL SUPPLIES. HE WAS TOLD THAT THERE WAS SOMEONE INJURED INSIDE BUT THAT THEY DIDN'T TELL HIM WHO IT WAS. HE SAID THAT HE HAD SEEN BARBARA AND

THAT SHE SAID THAT THEY WERE IN GOOD HEALTH BUT WORRIED. HE REPEATED THAT HE AND DR. PITALUGA WERE NOT PART OF A NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE, BUT THAT THEY WERE WORKING FOR THE BEST SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. HE SAID THAT THEIR ROLE, FOR THE TIME BEING, IS STRICTLY HUMANE AND THAT THEY WERE DELIVERING NECESSARY FOOD TO THOSE INSIDE THE CONSULATE.

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HE ADDED THAT HE DIDN'T KNOW WHEN A SOLUTION WOULD BE REACHED.

3. IN ITS NEWS SUMMARY, RADIO CRISTAL REPORTED THAT SEVERAL YOUNG PEOPLE TRYING TO DELIVER FOOD TO THE CONSULATE WERE DETAINED AND TURNED AWAY BY SECRET SERVICE AGENTS.

4. RADIO CRISTAL REPORTED THAT A SPOKESMAN FOR LA NOTICIA HAD CALLED ASSOCIATED PRESS IN NEW YORK TO DENY THE ALLEGATION BY THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE THAT MENDEZ VARGAS HAD WORKED FOR LA NOTICIA AS CITY EDITOR. THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT MENDEZ VARGAS HAD BEEN AN EMPLOYEE OF THE CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT AND THIS HAD ONLY BEEN FOR THREE MONTHS.

5. RADIO CRISTAL REPORTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE SITUATION AT THE CONSULATE AT THE TIME OF ITS "UP TO THE MINUTE" SUMMARY. THEY REPORTED THAT THE AREA AROUND THE CONSULATE HAD BECOME A PLACE FOR CURIOUS PEOPLE TO SPEND THEIR SUNDAY AFTERNOON. THE

SUMMARY ADDED THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL REPORTERS IN THE AREA WAITING FOR SOMETHING TO HAPPEN. ALSO REPEATED THE INFORMATION THAT MONSIGNOR

POLANCO BRITO HAD RECEIVED PERMISSION TO BRING FOOD, MEDICAL, AND SANITARY SUPPLIES TO THE PEOPLE INSIDE THE CONSULATE.

6. RADIO CRISTAL REPORTED THE ARRIVAL OF AN EVANGELIC PASTOR IN A SOUND TRUCK WHO TRIED TO TALK TO THE PEOPLE INSIDE THE CONSULATE. IN AN INTERVIEW, THE PASTOR GAVE HIS NAME, THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF HIS CHURCH, AND THEN SAID HE WOULD COMPLY WITH THE POLICE REQUEST TO LEAVE THE AREA.

7. RADIO CRISTAL REPORTED THE CONTINUING ARRIVAL OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESS CORPS. SAID THAT THERE ARE SIX MEMBERS OF THE PRESS FROM NEW YORK AND AN EQUAL NUMBER FROM WASHINGTON, TEN REPORTERS VENEZUELA, AND FIVE FROM PUERTO RICO. ADDED THAT THERE ARE MORE REPORTERS ARRIVING ON EACH PLANE.

8. RADIO CRISTAL TRIED TO CONDUCT AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. PITTALUGA AFTER HE HAD TALKED TO THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF OPERATIONS. DR. PITTALUGA COULD NOT GIVE THE INTERVIEWERS ANY FURTHER INFORMATION THAN WAS ALREADY KNOWN. HE STATED AGAIN THAT THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE AND THAT NO ONE KNEW  
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WHAT THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT WAS. RADIO CRISTAL'S REPORTER ON THE SCENE THEN GAVE A SUMMARY OF WHAT DR. PITTALUGA HAD SAID. THE REPORTER SAID THAT DR. PITTALUGA HAD EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. DR. PITTALUGA HAD NOT SPOKEN TO PRESIDENT BALAGUER, AND SAID THAT HE'S NOT PART OF ANY NEGOTIATIONS, BUT HE THINKS THEY ARE APPROACHING AN AGREEMENT, BUT HE IS PROCEEDING WITH DISCRETION.

10. RADIO CLARIN IN ITS NEWS SUMMARY REPORTED THAT MONSIGNOR POLANCO BRITO RECEIVED A NOTE FROM MENDEZ VARGAS WHEN THE MONSIGNOR WAS DELIVERING THE FOOD. THE NOTE WAS TO BE DELIVERED TO THE VENEZUELAN CHARGE, AND THE MONSIGNOR SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS IN THE NOTE. POLANCO BRITO SAID THAT MENDEZ VARGAS TOLD HIM THAT THERE WAS AN INJURED PERSON, BUT DECLINED TO SAY WHO IT WAS. OTHER THAN THAT BOTH THE HOSTAGES AND THE KIDNAPPERS ARE IN PRETTY GOOD CONDITION EXCEPT FOR THE LACK OF WATER.

11. RADIO CRISTAL IN A NEWS SUMMARY REPORTED THAT THE VENEZUELAN CHANCELLOR IN A NEWS CONFERENCE IN CARACAS SAID THAT HE WAS IN CONTACT WITH THE DOMINICAN AMBASSADOR AND THE VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT. HE SAID THAT HE HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY NEWS OF A DEAD-LINE FOR MEETING THE DEMANDS AND THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO DECISION MADE AS TO HOW TO LIBERATE THE HOSTAGES. THE VENEZUELAN CHANCELLOR SAID THAT HE HOPED THE DOMINICAN NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE WOULD REACH

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-14 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SCCT-02 SY-04 USSS-00

AID-20 FBIE-00 SCA-01 OMB-01 A-01 NIC-01 OPR-02 DRC-01

CCO-00 /128 W  
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O 300300Z SEP 74  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1593

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A SOLUTION. HE ADDED THAT THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT WAS NOT DISPOSED TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF TERRORISTS. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE DIDN'T THINK THAT THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD ACCEPT THE DEMANDS OF THE TERRORISTS.

12. RADIO CLARIN REPORTED THAT A VENEZUELAN SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE WIFE OF THE VENEZUELAN VICE-CONSUL HAS ASKED THAT PRESIDENT BALAGUER INTERCEDE TO ASSURE THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES.

13. RADIO CRISTAL REPORTED THAT ACCORDING TO INFORMED SOURCES THE TWO NEWSPAPERMEN WHO WORK FOR LA NOTICIA WILL BE DEPORTED TO SPAIN THIS EVENING ON IBERIA'S 6:30 FLIGHT.

14. RADIO CRISTAL REPORTED THE ARRIVAL OF THE VENEZUELAN CONSUL'S BROTHER FROM CARACAS. THE BROTHER SAID THAT HE HAD COME BECAUSE HIS BROTHER HAD NO RELATIVES HERE AND THAT THEIR MOTHER WAS WORRIED OVER THE SITUATION. HE ADDED THAT THE VENEZUELAN CHANCELLOR TOLD HIM THAT WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE WOULD NOT BREAK THE GOOD RELATIONS THAT EXIST BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

15. RADIO CLARIN REPORTED THE ARRIVAL OF AMBASSADOR HURWITCH AT THE CONSULATE. REPORTED THAT THE AMBASSADOR AND MONSIGNOR UNCLASSIFIED

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POLANCO BRITO WERE TALKING IN THE MONSIGNOR'S CAR. RADIO CLARIN SAID THAT THEY WOULD TRY TO GET A STATEMENT FROM THE AMBASSADOR.

16. RADIO CLARIN REPORTED THAT THE FIRST OFFICIAL WORD FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY WAS GIVEN BY THE POLITICAL OFFICER. THE POLITICAL OFFICER WAS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD UPI THAT THE AMBASSADOR MET WITH HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION. THIS WAS THE ONLY INFORMATION THE POLITICAL OFFICER COULD GIVE.

17. RADIO CLARIN REPORTED THAT A GROUP OF NINE POLITICAL PRISONERS WHO WERE ON THE LIST OF PRISONERS TO BE RELEASED HAS SAID THAT THEY ARE NOT IN AGREEMENT WITH THE METHOD BEING USED TO SECURE THEIR RELEASE AND THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES THEY WILL NOT LEAVE THE COUNTRY. THEY WOULD RATHER TRUST IN THE EVENTUAL AMNESTY OF THE GOVERNMENT. HURWITCH

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** KIDNAPPING, PRESS COMMENTS, RADIO BROADCASTING, POLITICAL SITUATION, HOSTAGES, PRESS SUMMARIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**TAGS:** ASEC, PINS, CI, RADIO CRYSTAL, (HUTCHINSON, BARBARA), (POLANCO BRITO, MONSIGNOR), (MENDEZ VARGAS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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